



City of Margate

Meeting Minutes

City Commission Workshop

5790 Margate Boulevard
Margate, FL 33063
954-972-6454
www.margatefl.com

*Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano
Commissioners:
Lesa Peerman, Tommy Ruzzano, Joanne Simone*

*City Manager Samuel A. May
Interim City Attorney Goren, Chero, Doody & Ezrol, P.A.
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh*

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Vice Chair Anthony N. Caggiano and Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

In Attendance:

City Manager Samuel A. May
City Attorney James A. Chero
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

1) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. ID 2018-007 CITY COMMISSION GOALS AND PRIORITIES.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ said that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible goals and objectives for the coming year.

VICE MAYOR ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO explained that his most important priority was putting the previous development project to rest and moving on into crafting a downtown for their residents. He explained that his second priority was to do better at getting their story out. He highlighted some of the City's accolades and accomplishments and questioned whether anybody was aware of those achievements.

COMMISSIONER LESA PEERMAN indicated that a lot of those accomplishments had been posted on the City's Facebook Page and Twitter accounts.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that they should be on the first page of the website and on signs within the City.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ advised that she had questions on setting deadlines and people being held accountable. She spoke about the Budget Workshop and questioned whether Aztec was paying their property taxes. She advised that the Building Department in the City of Pompano Beach was allowed to do e-filing for inspections on their website up to midnight of the day before the inspection. She said that it would be a great idea for the City as it was far more user friendly and would put them into the 21st century.

CITY MANAGER SAMUEL A. MAY said that he would find out about Aztec.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO explained that they were in the process of going to a newer and better system in the Building Department. He said that he had heard feedback that the City had made a good turnaround and thanked Richard Nixon.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ discussed Arbor View Construction removing three lanes of traffic from Merrick Preserve. She advised that they need to go out and see what was going on with ongoing projects. She also asked for an update on the hiring of a Grant's person.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that the Grant's Writer/Manager person had been selected but was in the process of background checks.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO advised on having background checks for all sport team activities where children were participating.

CITY MANAGER MAY explained that it was already being done but advised that they were going to take it a step further and start reviewing the background process for non-city leagues which would be undertaken by City staff or from the Police Department if required.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MICHAEL JONES advised that the City's current Code and that of the State statute specifically states that the independent sanctioning organization was responsible for conducting background checks and were responsible for those records for up to five years. He said that he was discussing and working with the City Manager on how to increase the filtering process of their Code and that they would report back to the Commission with a Code revision for youth leagues and volunteer programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the background process.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO explained that parks were on the hierarchy of standard of living and that they would need to look into more of the bond issue to get them all fixed. He also questioned whether he could promote the bond.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that they were moving forward on that.

CITY ATTORNEY JAMES A. CHEROF indicated that they would provide additional guidance in writing in regard to the Bond referendum. He confirmed that they could promote bonds by using their own, respective personal Facebook but advised that they could not be linked as a Commissioner for the City.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that there was an issue last Friday where there was no one inside the Parks and Recreational offices. She said that there was one room that was pitch black, unlocked and was unattended. She said that they should be protecting people and that it could be an accident waiting to happen. She said that she had discussed with the City Manager that they should consider installing a camera outside the restrooms.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that he was totally against installing cameras at restrooms in parks as he was concerned about the City's liability but thought it was an excellent idea to install cameras in general. He asked the City Attorney if they could do it where people did not think their privacy was being invaded.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that they would look at the feasibility of installing cameras.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that they should hire people who could do a five day work week. She said that if there was a holiday during the week, everyone should work four days that week and eight hours as opposed to owing someone a floating holiday. She said that she would have liked to have seen some schedules. She explained that they would not have a supervisor working on a Friday until mid-February in Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation and other departments.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that she was comparing it with the School Board and suggested that they should find out and compare what other Cities do. She advised that it was an administrative decision for the City Manager and that the City Commission should not be doing it according to the Charter.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that not much diligence went into it before they instituted it but said that it was a work in progress.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that Commissioner Peerman had a point but the issues would still have occurred as they would not have known about them until it happened. He said that there should not be one person in the City to get hired on a four day work week. He said that it should be five days. He said that the media person needs to work five days per week and that they should only work on Reception for two hours and not ten hours. He said that the Commission was giving the City Manager direction on how they would like the future of the City to look.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that they had a grant for \$500,000 to allow them to hire four Police Officers and asked if they were fully staffed. She also asked about overtime in the Police and Fire Departments.

POLICE CHIEF DANA WATSON explained that they were very close on being fully staffed but were in the process of hiring two people. He also said that they will need to hire for two additional positions at the end of the following month and that there were a couple of people scheduled to retire. He said that his department did not have excessive or abusive use of sick time and the overtime they pay was based on specifics of situations such as during the holiday. He said that other overtime incurred was based on a grants system which was reimbursed by the federal government. He said that he stays within the budget.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that he receives a monthly fiscal report which included overtime.

FIRE CHIEF DAN BOOKER said that they were in the process of hiring 12 people but as a cushion to avoid overtime, seven were the additional people they were hiring for this year.

Discussion ensued on overtime and staff patterns within the Fire Department.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that the five day work week was implemented as the Commission thought that the Building and Water Departments needed to be opened on Friday. She suggested that some other departments did not need to be open until 6:00 p.m. She explained that with technology, people could pay their bills online, visit Amscot or put it in City Hall's mail box. She said that she did not believe there was a need to work until 6:00 p.m. to accommodate for the residents. She repeated that with technology, they could have waited a little bit more in their decision to do what they did.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that most external visitors applying or interviewing for jobs went to HR in the early morning or late afternoon. He advised that they could now apply for jobs online. He said that a large number of people came before work to pay the water bill.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that people could work from 8:00am to 5:00pm and that they should not be paying people for a lunch hour.

Discussion ensued on working hours.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO asked the City Manager to provide a quarterly report on costs to run the City to see how it compared.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that she heard from two separate stations that the Fire Department was experiencing IT problems with getting on the web to do reports. She questioned whether there was a limitation or issue with the Fire Department with IT related services.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that all the fire stations had internet access. He explained that they should not have to rely on WiFi to do reports as every fire station had a high speed access landline connection. He said that he would look into it.

FIRE CHIEF BOOKER explained that their reporting system was internet based and occasionally, there were issues with getting on to do reports. He indicated that some of the reports were done on tablets.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she still experienced problems with the WiFi at City Hall. She indicated that the three flag poles they had outside City Hall were all the same height and the two flags below the American flag looked like they were at half-mast. She asked that if she could cut the two that were at the same height and put them lower so when people look at the flags, they were all at the top.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that he will have Public Works handle that.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that the Christmas decorations were still up on the Clock tower. She asked if the "Field of Flags" could be done again which was very popular and was a good image for the City.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that a contractor would be removing the decorations on February 2nd. He said that they could look into the "Field of Flags" event.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that flags were sitting in storage across from Ace Plaza.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that it was an awesome idea and asked if they should wait until the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in 2021 or if they wanted to do something like that every year.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that he would like to see it every year and that they could make it a tradition that people could come to Margate and put their flag in.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she would like to see more art in the City and said that she liked the pictures on Windfield Boulevard. She said that she asked the City Manager to look at North Lauderdale's 3D sign.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that he would like to see something grand for the entrances of the City.

Discussion ensued on art and signs.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that he would look into whether the new Media Specialist would be able to research art for the City.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she would like to clean up 441 and all the old shopping centers that do not look eye appealing and get some façades.

CITY MANAGER MAY indicated that he could contact the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Director. He advised that the Commission had sat with the architects individually to develop their Architectural Guidelines.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that the problem with the façade grants was that the plaza owner would need to buy into it.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she would like to see Complete Streets in Margate where it was safe for bicycles and pedestrians. She explained that this would go with their vision of being a family friendly community where people would feel safe to ride their bike or walk on designated paths. She advised that this could be explored with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and said that they were working on the C-14 canal project.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked if benches could be added to the C-14 corridor.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked for an update on the organization which wanted to remove a car lane and replace it with a bike lane going past Merrick Preserve.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES) DIRECTOR REDDY CHITEPU explained that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County were looking to schedule a community outreach. He advised that they were looking to set up a workshop for residents to see if they were in favor of that concept which would take place in early February.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that there was no parkour allowed in their parks.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that the parkour and the park benches on the C-14 canal would be great topics to bring back up when they discuss bonds.

CITY ATTORNEY CHEROF advised that it was not his practice to comment on placing warning and hazard signs in parks but would work with the administration and Risk Manager to deal with those kinds of issues.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that one of her priorities was to get back the City's 911 Communications. She said that she heard from a resident that called the emergency number and it took the Police about 20 minutes to arrive at her house.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that he was looking into the emergency telephone number situation and would report back to the Commission.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that one of her priorities was Code Compliance and asked if the hours had changed.

POLICE CHIEF WATSON explained that they had five Code Officers for the entire City that worked seven days per week until 6:00 p.m. but could work alternative hours if there was an issue such as lighting and parking lots. He said that at the weekend, there was only one person on Saturday and one on Sunday. He advised that 10 years ago, they had 10 Code Officers and two Animal Control Officers and those positions were not replaced when they left so they were now doing the same work with half the staff they used to have.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the Code Compliance hours could be a little bit different as a lot of people did not get home by 6:00pm. She said that Chief Watson should ask for more Code Officers.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that they need a second Animal Control Officer.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that he received many calls from residents about Code Compliance. He explained that he was unsure whether they needed to hire more Code Compliance Officers as people were more tech-savvy. He indicated that everyone in Margate was a Code Compliance Officer as they could take pictures and send it to Code Compliance. He said that many of the violations were from repeat offenders.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked the City Manager if he could put in Margate Matters that there was an app which residents could anonymously post if they saw a violation and report the same.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that they were soon to have a new app with the new website and they would look into that. He said that he agreed that many of the people were repeat offenders and that they had huge liens on their houses.

CITY ATTORNEY CHEROF explained that if the liens pertained to homestead property, they could not do anything, but on other properties, they could initiate a foreclosure action.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that they could introduce a little booklet pertaining to Code Compliance which could be sent with the water bill to residents.

Discussion ensued on Code Compliance.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that they should investigate the liens on Palm Lake Golf Course.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that in 2004, there was talk about the City purchasing Palm Lake Golf Course themselves and also the City talked about the possibility of making it into a passive park but the residents of Palm Lakes did not want that.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that they had been maintaining that park for quite some time.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that she had been asking for a long time to take the golf course and make it a passive park which could be made without concrete. She

also advised that the County wanted to give them the Park.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO explained that it came before them to purchase but the front property was sold at a foreclosure. He indicated that there was over \$1,000,000 worth of liens on that property.

CITY ATTORNEY CHEROF said that he would do some research on the liens.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked if they could set a time to end the Commission meetings and suggested 11:00 p.m.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that she did not want to cut back on time provided under Public Discussion.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO indicated that there were some meetings coming up at the Golf Course and asked if there were any representatives from the City attending.

CITY MANAGER MAY said that he could go as an observer.

CITY ATTORNEY CHEROF explained that if members of the Commission attended those meetings, they should not use the opportunity to speak but could talk to each other.

CITY MANAGER MAY advised that they can re-post meetings on Facebook or social media.

CITY ATTORNEY CHEROF explained that they could carry forward notices of other events throughout the community but they should make it clear to the public who see it on the City's website that it was not a City Commission or City sponsored meeting.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN provided dates and times of meetings pertaining to the Condos at Holiday Springs and the Carolinas and would forward a copy to the City Clerk.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ repeated that in future, she would like to see transparency and accountability. She explained that she would like to see some of the promotions, the positions and overtime from one year to another. She also indicated that she would also like to know what they were doing with Economic Development and the CRA personnel and would like to speak with the CRA Executive Director. She said that she would like to see the City's image enhanced and if they had to discuss façade grants and rehabbing areas that need it. She said that she would like to rehab Ace Hardware's parking lot but realizes that this was down to the CRA. She said that under Economic Development, she would like to see some high end businesses coming and less fast food. She advised that deadlines should be added to projects so that they can come back and speak with the Commission. She said that they should start with the Aztec property.

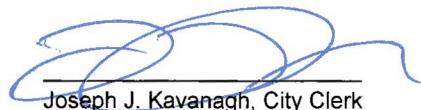
COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that deadlines had previously been an issue. She advised that the Commission should be clearer when they give direction and should also provide sufficient time for them to research rather than making open ending requests.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 5/3/18

PLEASE NOTE:

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone desiring a verbatim transcript shall have the responsibility, at his/her own expense, to arrange for the transcript.

[Appendix A – Zoning – Section 3.3] Any representation made before any City Board, any Administrative Board, or the City Commission in the application for a variance, special exception, conditional use or request for any other permit shall be deemed a condition of the granting of the permit. Should any representation be false or should said representation not be continued as represented, same shall be deemed a violation of the permit and a violation of this section.

Any person with a disability requiring auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may call the City Clerk's office at (954) 972-6454 with their request at least two business days prior to the meeting date.